



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797

JOSEPH E. KERNAN
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2004

Mr. Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Ill. 60604

Dear Mr. Skinner

On January 27, I wrote to Administrator Leavitt, urging him to find a way to avoid serious and unnecessary economic impacts on areas of Indiana that are on a clear path to meet the eight hour ozone health standard once currently required controls are fully implemented.

Today, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is providing a response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's preliminary recommendations on ozone nonattainment designations. (See enclosed) The agency's response provides additional information to support Indiana's recommendations for nonattainment area boundaries. We continue to believe that our recommendations with respect to Dearborn, Greene, Huntington, Jackson, and Vanderburgh Counties are consistent with the Clean Air Act and should not be modified.

Clean and healthy air for all our citizens is a priority for me. So is a healthy economy. We can achieve both goals. We are already seeing the air quality benefits of utility controls throughout our state and region and know that the benefits will increase. We should focus our efforts on those areas of the state where further measures may be necessary, and not burden areas headed toward clean air with restrictions on economic activity that are not necessary to achieve that goal.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to work with us on this critical issue and look forward to further discussion with you prior to USEPA's final decisions in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Kernan".

Joseph E. Kernan
Governor

Enclosure